

**[ PCSD ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 006-00,  
February 25, 2000 ]**

**GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEP CLEARANCE  
SYSTEM**

Pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act No. 7611 and with reference to Rule IV, particularly Section 20 of the Amended Rules and Regulations Implementing the Strategic Environment Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act, Presidential Decree 1586 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations embodied in DENR DAO No. 96-37, the Memorandum of Agreement entered into by and between DENR and PCSD on December 29, 1994, and other pertinent laws and procedures in securing clearance from PCSD in relation to proposed projects and undertakings for implementation in Palawan is hereby promulgated, as follows: I

*SECTION 1. Scope of Application .* — These guidelines shall apply to all projects and undertakings to be implemented in Palawan and shall serve as guide for all government instrumentalities mandated to issue permits, licenses, contracts, or agreements and other similar instruments.

*SECTION 2. Definition of Terms .* — For the purpose of these guidelines, the following words and phrases shall have the following meaning:

1. **Certificate of Non-Coverage.** — refers to the document issued by DENR stating that the proposed project is not covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, therefore, the proponent is not required to secure an ECC prior to commencement of operation.
2. **Compliance Monitoring** — refers to the activity identified to gauge the proponent's level of compliance with the conditions stipulated in the ECC, the authorization issued by PCSD and the submitted EIS or IEE.
3. **DAO 96-37** — refers to the DENR Administrative Order revising DAO No. 21, series of 1992 and strengthening the implementation of the Philippine EIS System established under Presidential Decree (PD) 1586.
4. **DENR** — refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, an executive department of the Philippine Government tasked to implement environmental and natural resources laws and policies and to supervise related projects as mandated under Executive Order 192, series of 1987.
5. **ECAN** — refers to the Environmentally Critical Areas Network, a graded system of protection and development control over the whole of Palawan, including its tribal lands, forests, mines, agricultural areas, settlement areas, small islands, mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds,

and the surrounding sea which serves as the main strategy of the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan.

6. **ECAN Board** — a local multisectoral body created as an advisory body to the local government unit, purposely to assist in: developing plans and programs to implement the ECAN at the municipal level; protecting the environment and managing the sustainable utilization of natural resources in the local areas; ensuring compatibility of development projects with ECAN zones and local environmental conditions through project screening and monitoring; facilitating the flow of activities, documents and decision-making processes related to the efficient and effective implementation of ECAN.

7. **Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)** — refers to the document issued by the DENR Secretary or the Regional Executive Director certifying that based on the representations of the proponent and the prepares, as reviewed and validated by the Environment Impact Assessment Review Committee (EIARC), the proposed project or undertaking will not cause a significant negative environmental impact; that the proponent has complied with all the requirements of the EIS System; and that the proponent is committed to implement its approved Environmental Management Plan in the Environmental Impact Statement or mitigation measures in the Initial Environmental Examination.

8. **Environmentally Critical Area** — refers to an area that is environmentally sensitive and is listed under Presidential Proclamation No. 2146 Series of 1981, as well as other areas which the President of the Philippines may proclaim as environmentally critical in accordance with Section 4 of PD 1586.

9. **Environmentally Critical Project** — refers to a project that has a high potential for significant negative environmental impact and is listed as such under Presidential Proclamation No. 2146 series of 1981, Presidential Proclamation No. 803, series of 1996, as well as other projects which the President may proclaim as environmentally critical in accordance with Section 4 of PD 1586.

10. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** — refers to the process of predicting the likely environmentally consequences of implementing project or undertaking, and designing appropriate preventive, mitigating and enhancement measures.

11. **Environmental Impact Statement/Study (EIS)** — refers to the document required to be submitted by the project proponent whose proposed project or undertaking is classified as an Environmentally Critical Project (ECP). The contents of the EIS shall conform with the requirements of Section 9.0, Article III of DAO 96-37.

12. **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System** — refers to the entire process of organization, administration and procedures institutionalized for the purpose of assessing the effects of any project or undertaking on the quality of the physical, biological and socio-economic environment, and designing appropriate preventive, mitigating and enhancement measures pursuant to Presidential Decree 1586.

13. **Evaluation Committee** — refers to the body of experts from various fields, to be created by PCSD, whose main task is to assist PCSD in evaluating EIS and other documents.
14. **Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)** — refers to the document generally required to be submitted by the proponent whose project or undertaking is located within an ECAN. The contents of the IEE should conform to the requirements of Section 19.0, Article III of DAO 96-37.
15. **Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Checklist Report** — refers to a simplified form developed by the DENR to assist proponent/s of small project/s in complying with the EIS System. The Report, to be accomplished and submitted before undertaking a project, consists of a series of questions that deal with issues and concerns under the EIS System.
16. **Non-government Organization (NGO)** — a private, non-profit voluntary organization that has been organized primarily for the delivery of various services to the communities and has an established track record for effectiveness and acceptability in the community where it is serving..
17. **PCSD** — refers to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, the administrative body responsible for the governance, implementation and policy direction of the SEP, as provided in Section 16, Chapter V of RA 7611.
18. **PCSDS** — refers to the PCSD Staff, the regular professional staff supporting PCSD as provided in Section 16, Chapter V of RA 7611.
19. **Peoples Organization (PO)** — a bonafide association of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership and structure. Its members belong to a sector/s who voluntarily band themselves together to work by themselves for their own upliftment, development and greater good.
20. **Permitting Agency (PA)** — refers to any agency or instrumentality of the Government, such as (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, DENR, LGU, etc.) which is mandated or authorized to issue ECC, permit, license or enter into lease agreement, stewardship contracts or other similar instruments for the development, exploitation, management and monitoring of Palawan's natural resources.
21. **Project** — refers to activities, including actions, programs, policy or undertaking, regardless of scale or magnitude, which may have significant impact on the environment.
22. **Project Proponent** — refers to any entity, private or government organizations, persons or owners/agents, planning or intending to undertake a project.
23. **Public Hearing/Public Consultation** — refers to the activity undertaken by PCSD to gather facts and thresh out all issues, concerns